

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

JOAN MILES
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

PO Box 4210
HELENA, MT 59604-4210

December 8, 2008

Name of Association Director
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear XXXX,

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' Public Health & Safety Division has formed a Study Group to perform a comprehensive review of Montana's food and consumer safety activities. Currently the group members include local sanitarians, public health officials, and Department staff. Since the Study Group's inception this summer, two meetings have been held, and we plan to continue meeting on a monthly basis over the next 18-24 months.

At the December 3 meeting, members expressed concern that participation in the Study Group by representatives of the retail food, restaurant, and public accommodations sectors was vital to the success of any future initiatives or rule changes. We are therefore asking that you nominate a representative of your association to participate in the group. We are looking for someone who is interested in creating a vision for the future of and making measurable improvements to our statewide food and consumer safety system. The work of this group will be broader than that of the previous Food Code Task Force, and will provide feedback and recommendations to the Department on possible system improvements related to the following key issues:

- Updates to statutory authorities, administrative rules and enforcement
- Data systems that support food and consumer safety programs
- State/ local relationships
- Long-term funding for the program.

We expect the time commitment for this work to be up to 12 hours per month. This includes time for meetings (some face to face, some via videoconference or teleconference) and for reading and research the representative would need to complete prior to each meeting. We believe that long-term commitment of members to the process will be critical to its success. We will reimburse travel expenses at the state rates.

While all meetings of this group will be open to the public, we intend to have several industry representatives participate as members of the Study Group. Toward that end and if you or another representative of your association is interested, we ask that you provide information about on the application form that is enclosed here. Current members of the Study Group will review these materials and select representatives to the group. If you are interested, return your application to jsmilie@mt.gov by for consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Smilie
Administrator
Public Health & Safety Division